

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle in which ~~a~~-column sided upper and lower brackets provided fixedly to or integrally with a steering column ~~is~~are respectively press-fitted to ~~a~~-vehicle body sided upper and lower brackets secured to a vehicle body, said steering column is supported by inserting a fastening bolt through through-holes formed in said column sided upper bracket and said vehicle body sided upper brackets and by inserting a pivoting bolt through through-holes formed in said column sided lower bracket and said vehicle body sided lower bracket as a center of rotation for tilt movement of the steering column, and, when a secondary collision happens, ~~an impact energy thereof is absorbed in a way that causes a flexural deformation of~~ said vehicle body sided upper bracket is arranged to absorb an impact energy thereof by deforming while moving said steering column towards the front of the automotive vehicle,

wherein said vehicle body sided upper bracket is composed integrally of a vehicle body securing portion to be

secured to a strength member of the vehicle body, a vertical wall portion extending downwards from the vehicle body securing portion through a bending portion to form a substantially L-shaped bracket, and column fastening fixing portions projecting from the vertical wall portion and extending along the column toward the front of the vehicle and having said through-hole as an elongate hole for inserting said fastening bolt for tilt adjustment,

wherein said through-hole of said column sided upper bracket is formed as an elongate hole extending substantially in parallel with an axis of the steering column to the rear side of the automotive vehicle from a position of said fastening bolt, and

wherein, upon secondary collision, said column sided lower bracket separates from said vehicle body sided lower bracket.

~~said through hole of said vehicle body sided upper bracket is an elongate hole for a tilt adjustment, and~~  
~~said bolt is a tilt position fastening bolt.~~

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is such that,

upon secondary collision, after said ~~flexural~~-deformation of the vehicle body sided upper bracket, a collapse stroke occurs as a result of relative movement of the column sided bracket with respect to the vehicle body sided bracket and sliding movement of said bolt along said elongate hole of the column sided bracket.

7. (Currently Amended) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is such that, upon secondary collision, before said ~~flexural~~-deformation of the vehicle body sided upper bracket, a collapse stroke occurs as a result of relative movement of the column sided bracket with respect to the vehicle body sided bracket and sliding movement of said bolt along said elongate hole of the column sided bracket.

8. (Previously Presented) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein in response to the secondary collision, a collapse stroke occurs as a result of relative movement of the column sided bracket with respect to the vehicle body sided bracket and sliding movement of said bolt along said elongate hole of the column sided bracket,

thereby absorbing additional impact energy of the secondary collision.

9. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle in which a column sided upper bracket provided fixedly to or integrally with a steering column is press-fitted to a vehicle body sided upper bracket secured to a vehicle body, said steering column is supported by a bolt inserted through through-holes formed in said column sided and vehicle body sided upper brackets, and, when a secondary collision happens, an impact energy thereof is absorbed in a way that causes deformation of said vehicle body sided upper bracket while said steering column moves towards the front of the vehicle,

wherein said through-hole of said column sided upper bracket is formed as an elongate hole extending substantially in parallel with an axis of the steering column toward the rear of the vehicle from a position of said bolt, said through-hole of said vehicle body sided upper bracket is an elongate hole for a tilt adjustment, and said bolt is a tilt position fastening bolt,

wherein said vehicle body sided upper bracket is composed integrally of a vehicle body securing portion, a vertical wall portion extending downwards from the vehicle body securing portion through a bending portion to form a

substantially L-shaped bracket, and column fixing portions extending from the vertical wall portion substantially in parallel with an axis of the steering column toward the front of the vehicle, and

wherein said vertical wall portion and said column fixing portions are adapted to rotate about said bending portion upon secondary collision, thereby bringing the vehicle body sided upper bracket elongate hole toward alignment with a collapsing direction of the steering column.

10. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is such that, upon secondary collision, after said deformation of the vehicle body sided upper bracket, a collapse stroke occurs as a result of relative movement of the column sided bracket with respect to the vehicle body sided bracket and sliding movement of said bolt along said elongate hole of the column sided bracket.

11. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is such that, upon secondary collision, before said deformation of the vehicle body sided upper bracket, a collapse stroke occurs as a result of relative movement of

the column sided bracket with respect to the vehicle body sided bracket and sliding movement of said bolt along said elongate hole of the column sided bracket.

12. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 9, wherein in response to the secondary collision, a collapse stroke occurs as a result of relative movement of the column sided bracket with respect to the vehicle body sided bracket and sliding movement of said bolt along said elongate hole of the column sided bracket, thereby absorbing additional impact energy of the secondary collision.